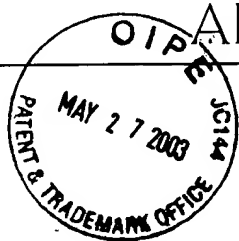


1646



ARNOLD & PORTER

202.942.5000
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555 Twelfth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1206

May 27, 2003

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Application No. 08/915,004
Filed: August 1, 1997
Title: Novel Proteins and Methods for Producing the Proteins
Applicants: GOTO *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16991.010

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO):

1. Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Continued Suspension of Action by the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.103 and MPEP 709;
2. an Appointment of Associate Attorneys; and
3. a return postcard.

Please stamp the attached postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time beyond those petitioned for herewith are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387 referencing matter number 16991.010. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Edwards

David R. Marsh (Reg. Attorney No. 41,408)
Dawn M. Gardner (Reg. Attorney No. 44,118)
Danielle M. Edwards (Reg. Agent No. 51,645)

Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

GOTO *et al.*

Appln. No.: 08/915,004

Filed: August 20, 1997

For: Novel Proteins and Methods for
Producing the Proteins

Art Unit: 1636

Examiner: M. Pak

Atty. Docket: 16991.010

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**Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Continued Suspension
of Action by the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.103 and MPEP 709**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to a communication mailed March 21, 2001, the period of suspension for the above-referenced application has remained in effect due to a potential interference.

On July 31, 2002, Applicants submitted an inquiry requesting a status update of this application. Subsequent inquiries requesting a status update of this application were filed on October 7, 2002, December 20, 2002, and March 5, 2003. To date, a response to Applicant's requests has not been received by the undersigned. Therefore, Applicants hereby respectfully request that the Examiner in charge of this case provide a status update to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Edwards

David R. Marsh (Reg. Attorney No. 41,408)
Dawn M. Gardner (Reg. Attorney No. 44,118)
Danielle M. Edwards (Reg. Agent No. 51,645)

Date: May 27, 2003

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